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PATERNAL GOVERNMENT OR TRUE FREEDOM.

The difference between nations in the administration of laws is an interesting study. In some countries, such as Germany, it takes a paternal form, whilst among our Anglo-Saxon people it rests upon a broader and safer basis.

The *National Review* for last month contains an article on "Germany and Ourselves" from the pen of Captain Bertrand Stewart, who was for two years an inmate of a German prison, and whose trial raised a storm at the time that will be remembered by many. Writing, as he does, from a personal experience his views are entitled to the greater weight. In the article referred to he compares our system with the German and enlarges upon the freedom and right to justice on all occasions which we enjoy.

The writer gives many details confirmatory of his views, and amongst others he tells us that in Germany "a prisoner may be kept six months in a cell waiting for a trial timed to suit the political exigencies of the moment. A penniless agent provocateur, the creature of the Government—and already convicted of every sort of crime—may try, but fail, to provoke the commission of some act against the law and yet be the only witness against the prisoner. This man's perjury, admitted in the secrecy of the magistrate's room—as the prosecution is careful to arrange—counts for nothing. Then, worst of all, a prisoner may be tried behind closed doors despite all his protests; lying statements, which the prisoner is given no chance to deny in public, may be published for political purposes; and a judgment given absolutely contrary to the evidence and the admissions of the prosecution because it may be politically useful, or an agitation may be in progress for more ships. All this, according to their